

# East County Intercom



**Isiah Leggett, County Executive**

**Timothy Firestine, Chief Administrative Officer**

**Anise Key Brown, Director**

**Kim Bobola, ECCAB Chair**

## Newsletter

January 2008

*"Wishing all a very Happy & a Prosperous New Year 2008!"*

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CENTER ! MARK YOUR CALENDAR !



**January 16<sup>th</sup>; 7:00 pm at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center County Executive's Public Forum on FY09 Operating Budget** - Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett is sponsoring six budget

forums throughout the County in January to seek input from residents about the Fiscal Year 2009 Operating Budget priorities. All sessions are open to residents from any part of the County. "These public forums give our residents an opportunity to tell me what's important to them as I prepare next year's operating budget for submission to the County Council on March 17," said Leggett. "Input from residents is crucial in determining priorities and providing a government that is both responsive and effective."

**January 16 @ 7:00 pm** at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring. For residents who cannot attend one of the budget forums, an online form is available to accept comments and ideas about the budget. The form is available on the County's website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) by clicking on the online form link under the FY09 Budget heading. Sign language interpreter services will be provided only upon request with notice as far in advance as possible, but no less than 72 hours prior to the event. The County Executive announces his recommended fiscal year 2009 operating budget on March 17. The County Council approves the operating budget at the end of May.



**January 19<sup>th</sup> AARP Driver Safety Class** : The AARP Driver Safety class is an 8-hour course that can help you learn not only the effects of aging on driving but also how you can adjust your driving. Auto insurance companies in most states

provide a multiyear discount to AARP graduates. **Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**; 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring, MD 20904; **Fee: \$10.00; Language: English *Limited Seats only!* Call # (240) 777-8400 immediately to register!!!**



**Preventing Foreclosures** – On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center will host a free workshop designed to assist those faced with possible mortgage foreclosures. The workshop will provide an overview of the current foreclosure situation in America, discuss how to prevent mortgage foreclosure, answer questions, and conduct individual consultations. The workshop is being presented by the **Howard University**

**School of Law, Fair Housing Clinic, on Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.** For more information call 240-777-8400.

**FREE Citizenship Preparation Classes**—The Montgomery County Refugee Training Program/Montgomery College will offer free Citizenship Preparation Classes beginning **February 5, 2008**. The classes will be held at the East County Community Recreation Center, 3310 Gateshead Manor Way, on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Students in Citizenship Preparation Classes can prepare to become U.S. Citizens by studying for the three required tests – English, History/Government, and a face-to-face interview with an immigration (USCIS) officer. **Residents must have their Green Card to participate.** For information or to register, call 240-567-1404/1405



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### Topics of Interest

- Update on Free ESOLclasses at EMRSC.
- East County Citizens Advisory Board Meeting Information
- The Peoples Community Wellness Center





**Free Language Classes held at Regional Services Center :** Two ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes are currently open for enrollment at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center – one beginner class and one intermediate class. The classes meet on Friday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., starting **Feb. 15th** and are open to all who wish to learn or improve their English skills. A refundable deposit and book fee are requested. Classes are offered in partnership with the Chinese Culture and Community Center. For information call 240-777-8400.

## Partner of the Month

### Featuring Volunteer Friends of The Eastern Montgomery Regional Center

*This is the second of a series of articles to recognize the volunteers and partners of EMRSC*



*We salute our volunteer friends to show our appreciation for improving the quality of life of others by providing a needed service. Because of their thoughtfulness and generosity our community is a better place for all of us to live.*

**John Nash** is a community volunteer teaching Driver Safety Classes at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC). After retiring, John heard of the class offered by AARP as well as their need for instructors. Being a safety engineer by profession, he decided this was a need he could fill and he has been doing so since 1995. John currently teaches the 8 hour classes on Saturdays, 3-4 times each year, at EMRSC. In addition to teaching, John trains and mentors new driver safety instructors, presents at speaking engagements, attends state meetings, and relays to others new information and materials. John additionally teaches this class for 3 other driver safety training sponsors – Fairland Community Center, Holy Cross Senior Source, and Riderwood Village. Recently, John was asked to take the position of Assistant District Coordinator for the state of Maryland. His additional responsibilities will include arranging for new training sponsors, scheduling trainings, and recruiting and supervising new instructors.

John's service to our community extends further – he and his wife, Barbara, give their time in various departments at the Laurel Regional Hospital, both have been volunteer election judges for over 10 years, and both are tutors two days each week for a citizenship preparation program held at the East County Community Recreation Center.

John and Barbara are residents of Colesville since 1976 and have been married for 47 years. They have four children and 7 grand children with an 8<sup>th</sup> on the way. It is our good fortune to have John and Barbara for our neighbors!

*Unselfish and noble actions are the most radiant pages in the biography of souls. - David Thomas*

**OTHER EVENTS & NEWS!** **Become Neighborhood Ready** \_ The CERT (Citizen Emergency Response Training) starts January 9th for 4 weeks. Registration is still open, so please contact your family and friends to sign up. With the strain on the budget, this may be the last class for a long time. The next class after January is not scheduled until September 2008! So take the opportunity to be trained. Taking the CERT training not only helps the individual and their family, but provides another resource to help in times of disaster. Come join us and get your disaster preparedness, first aid, search and rescue, disaster psychology, ICS, fire safety, fire extinguisher, and other training. To sign up, go to [www.montgomerycert.org](http://www.montgomerycert.org) All registrations are handled online. If you have any questions, please Capt Ty Dement at 240-777-22202.



**Monday, January 7th, 7 pm,** Washington Adventist Hospital President, Jere Stocks, will make a presentation to the community on the hospital's plans to move to East County. The location is **Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church** at **2518 Fairland Road**, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904. The community is invited. *Light refreshments will be served before and after the presentation.*

**Starting January 1, 2008, Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Ride Free within Montgomery County** - on Ride On buses and Metrobuses. Seniors must be 65 years or older and present the following Valid ID to ride free: • Metro Senior ID Card • Medicare Card along with a Photo ID. Disabled riders must present a valid Metro Disabled Attendant ID Card or a Metro Disabled ID Card. **For more information, please call the Transit Information Center, 240-777-RIDE (7433)**



## UPCOMING & EVENTS HELD IN EAST COUNTY !!!

East County Intercom



### CALLING ALL LOCAL EAST COUNTY AUTHORS!!!

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center is planning a special event this Spring for published authors of books. Residents interested in participating and/or gathering more information, please call Eastern Montgomery Regional Center @ 240-777-8400.

Montgomery County Police Department  
3rd District Police - Silver Spring  
801 Sligo Avenue,  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Tel # (301) 565-7740

### NEWS FROM MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE-RESCUE SERVICE FY08 STRATEGIC PLAN




The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) has published its "FY08 Strategic Plan" addressing the highest priority recommendations of the *Fire, Rescue, Emergency Medical Services, and Community Risk Reduction Master Plan* (adopted by County Council October 11, 2005). FY08 Strategic Plan priorities focus on: apparatus, equipment, and staffing needs; apparatus and facility maintenance; urgently needed facilities; recruitment and workforce diversity; firefighter wellness and safety; fire risk reduction concerning seniors; planning initiatives; implementation of recommendations from water supply, aerial unit, and rescue squad studies; annual accreditation follow-up tasks; and improvement of the County's fire protection rating issued by the Insurance Services Office. While full implementation of certain of these priorities must occur during FY08 to meet external and internal customer needs, most priorities will take longer to implement but should be initiated during FY08. Several priorities are carry-overs from the FY06-07 Strategic Plan as they were not completed or not yet initiated because of their sizeable scope or because they were not funded.

In early FY08, MCFRS was awarded departmental accreditation status by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International in conjunction with its parent organization - the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Inc. Montgomery County is the largest jurisdiction having a combined fire-rescue service (i.e., staffed by career and volunteer personnel) to have been awarded accreditation. Maintaining its accreditation status is a prime focus of the FY08 Strategic Plan. Another key emphasis of the plan is apparatus replacement - which includes a new fleet of 37 pumpers, plus 17 new ambulances, nine aerial units, three rescue squads, and two hazardous materials response units - and apparatus maintenance including the planned opening of a central maintenance facility for MCFRS apparatus. Staffing enhancements are a major element of the plan, as well, with the implementation of Phase 2 of the multi-phase initiative to add a fourth firefighter to frontline engines, aerial units, and rescue squads. Adding a fourth person to 8 of 32 frontline engines is the focus of Phase 2.

The MCFRS FY08 Strategic Plan is available for viewing on the MCFRS web site at [www.mcfrs.org](http://www.mcfrs.org) under "News and Events" on the home page. Questions or comments can be directed to Scott Gutschick, MCFRS Planning Section Manager, at [scott.gutschick@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:scott.gutschick@montgomerycountymd.gov) or 240-777-2417.

**Commit to the Dream: The Time Is NOW!**

"... I have a dream that one day we will live in a nation where we will not be judged by the color of our skin but by the content of our character."



**Mark Your Calendar for Monday, January 21, 2008!**

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett and the Office of Community Partnerships Proudly Present

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**A Day of Service and Celebration**  
12:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Community Service Projects**  
For information or to volunteer call 240-777-2600  
Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center  
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**A Musical Celebration and Tribute**  
World Renowned Morgan State University Mass Choir  
For more information, call 240-777-2500  
The Music Center at Strathmore

FREE TICKETS may be reserved by visiting [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org), in person or by mail.  
FREE PARKING.



Are some of your New Year Resolutions to....

Get Out of Debt?

Spend more time with friends and family?

Further your education?

Improve your career and get a promotion?

Lose weight, get in shape and meditate?

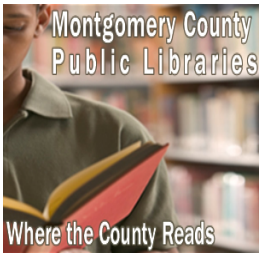
Make an effort to stress less & focus on your own needs?



### The Peoples' Community Wellness Center at EMRSC

A Cooperative Venture between the People's Community Wellness Center (TPCWC), Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center (EMRSC) and Mobile Med.

If you have questions, please contact TPCWC at (301) 847-1172 or [www.pcw.onehealthylife.org](http://www.pcw.onehealthylife.org)



## **LIBRARY NEWS! CALENDAR OF EVENTS !**

Fairland Library, 14910 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866 Tel 240-773-9460

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/branchevents.asp?branch=7>

White Oak Library, 11701 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20904 Tel 240-773-9555

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/Libraries/branchinfo/branchevents.asp?branch=22>

**Neighborhood Beautification Grants Available;** Applications Will Be Reviewed This Fall - Keep Montgomery County Beautiful (KMCB) is reviewing grant applications to fund beautification projects that help improve the appearance of communities throughout Montgomery County. For more information go to: [http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR\\_details.asp?PrID=3974](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=3974)

**Election Judges Needed for the 2008 Primary and General Elections!** The Montgomery County Board of Elections is looking for registered voters, 17 years or older, by Election Day, to work in the polls on Election Days as Election Judges. Training is provided and Election Judges receive a *stipend* for attending training and working. **Election Dates** - Presidential Primary : **February 12, 2008** ♦ General : **November 4, 2008**

If you are interested please call # (240)777-8500 or visit [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org)

### **East County Citizens Advisory Board (ECCAB)**

*Guests are invited to attend the East County Citizens Advisory Board meetings and encouraged to ask questions & provide comments.*

**Our next ECCAB meeting will be held at**

**the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center on**

**Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 7:15pm**

For questions please contact : Tel (240) 777-8400 / TTY (240) 777-8418

### **Employment Services Offered in East County!!!**

The Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center, in cooperation with the Montgomery Works Career Development Center, provides employment counseling the **third Thursday of each month** from **8:30 am. to 5:00 pm.** **The next date for this is January 17, 2008.**

For more information, or to schedule an appointment, call **240-777-8400.**



Meeting and conference room space is available at the Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center.

FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY NEWS - go to

[http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/PR\\_list.asp](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/Apps/News/press/PR_list.asp)

To reserve space, call the CUPF agency at (240) 777-2706

**Eastern Montgomery Regional Services Center**

**3300 Briggs Chaney Road**

**Silver Spring, MD 20904**

**Phone: 240-777-8400 / Fax: 240-777-8410**

**e-mail: [eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:eastco.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov)**

**web : <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/eastco>**



**FREE Compost Bins**  
available at EMRSC  
Call 240-777-8400  
M-F 8:30 am -5:00 pm

